



City of Monterey Park News Release

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Southern California Edison and Monterey Park Reach Compromise Over Edison Trails

Utility company agrees to scale back its requirements to trim trees and vegetation at the park

Monterey Park, Calif. – April 9, 2014 -- Since 1965, the City of Monterey Park has had a license agreement to use and access the area known as Edison Trails. The trail starts just east of Edison Trails Park along South Garfield Avenue and travels east for four blocks before ending at Fulton Avenue just before coming to La Loma Park. It is a beautiful natural habitat that runs under the Southern California Edison (SCE) power transmission lines. Every five years the city renews its license for access to this property.



In 2013, stating safety concerns for their workers, SCE doubled the amount of clearance space required around their poles and towers, increasing the clearance area to up to 50 or 100 feet in some sections. While this change is intended to improve worker safety, it also created great concern over the habitat in the trails. As the city started the mandatory clearing of trees that were infringing on this new safety zone, there was great alarm and concern from neighbors and hikers of the trail.

Through much negotiation and community involvement with SCE, they have now come back with a more eco-friendly interpretation. While there will be some trimming and thinning and removal of some of the cactus plants that don't belong within the trails, the trees that will now be removed are the ones which have died over the years. This cleanup will occur in late April and early May.

In addition to the cleanup, the city also has an \$80,000 grant for trail enhancements from Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District. This work will be started by late summer. The City is also looking at transplanting trees at the trail heads at Garfield and Fulton Avenues. SCE has also pledged to try to assist in donating additional trees and shrubs that will further enhance the area.

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